“Christmas Island, Naturally”

Solo exhibition by acclaimed Singapore conceptual photographer Robert Zhao Renhui (11 March – 8 May 2017)

Singapore, February 2017 – ShanghART Singapore is pleased to present a solo show by acclaimed Singapore artist and photographer Robert Zhao Renhui, titled "Christmas Island, Naturally" on view from 11 March through 8 May. The exhibition comprises works commissioned for and exhibited at the Sydney Biennale 2016 and marks the debut of these works in Singapore, as well as showcasing previously unexhibited works in the series. The opening reception will be held Wednesday, 15 March 2017, from 6-9pm, including an artist's talk and exhibition book launch.

Under his Institute of Critical Zoologists (ICZ), devoted to a "critical approach toward the zoological gaze, or how humans view animals" and to "advance unconventional, even radical, means of understanding human and animal relations," the artist's multi-disciplinary approach appropriates scientific language, tools, methods and even apparatus, juxtaposed with fabulist storytelling. His works inhabit an uncanny space between reality and fantasy, often exposing overlooked contradictions, assumptions, and tensions inherent in man's relationship with nature. Blending fact and fiction, truth and artifice, the artist invites viewers to contemplate upon the image and information being presented, a reflexive gesture that proves to be particularly pertinent in an image-saturated world of "fake news." And sometimes, as the artist demonstrates, truth is in fact stranger than fiction.

The artist conducted a research residency on Christmas Island between 2015-2016. A small volcanic outcrop in the Indian Ocean, the island's geographic isolation has resulted in its endemic biodiversity. Once part of the Crown Colony of Singapore, the island is now an External Territory of Australia. Christmas Island is best known for its annual breeding migration of red land crabs from land to the sea, during which millions of bright red crustaceans overtake the island and all vehicular activity grinds to a halt. Phosphate mining, the island's main industry, began in the late nineteenth century, and invasive species brought over by human settlers have tipped the scales of the island's fragile ecological balance, driving multiple native species to extinction and threatening others. Conservation efforts include an island-wide culling of non-native cats, to which the island's native fauna had fallen easy prey.

The artist's study focuses on documenting the island's imperiled and extinct species, and also examines the unintended consequences of man's presence. The artist's photographic series of the island's strange creatures, natural phenomena and landmarks are accompanied by signature pseudo-scientific, tongue-in-cheek exposition and field notes. In addition, the artist references objects from the island for two installations on view. Memorial to the Christmas Island Pipistrelle (2016) is a solar-powered ultrasonic echolocator used to track the pipistrelle bat. Rendered meaningless due to the species' extinction, the apparatus serves as silent, poignant reminder of the pipistrelle's permanent absence. The elegant wooden form of Memorial to the Last Cat on Christmas Island (2016) belies its lethal function as a feral cat trap, indicated by its pointed installation together with a resin cat skeleton.

"Christmas Island, Naturally" culminates in a speculative solution to remove all invasive species from the island once and for all, whereby humans, also proverbial "invasive species", opt to leave the island in order to preserve its ecology. This imagined scenario unfolds via a fictive conservation conference program, "Life After Humans – Rewilding Island Ecosystems," as well as extracts from scientific papers presented.

Accompanying the exhibition, the titular book, Christmas Island, Naturally, a book imagines the result of this thought experiment fifty years into the future, containing 120 photographs and documents on the extinctions and conservation efforts on the island. The book will be launched during the opening reception following an artist's talk. Limited copies of the book will also be available for purchase.

About Robert Zhao Renhui

Singaporean visual artist Robert Zhao Renhui (b. 1983) works chiefly with photography but often adopts a multi-disciplinary approach, presenting images together with documents and objects. Renhui's work include textual and media analysis, video and photography projects. Recent exhibitions include the Sydney Biennale 2016, Arles Discovery Award 2015, 'A Guide to the Flora and Fauna of the World', Centre of Contemporary Photography, Melbourne (2015); 'The Nature Collector', ShanghART, Shanghai (2015); 'Flies Prefer Yellow', Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco (2014); and 'A Guide to the Flora and Fauna of the World', Primo Marella Gallery, Milan (2014), Singapore Biennale 2013, Centre of Contemporary Photography (Melbourne) and Photoquai 2013. His work has also been awarded The Deutsche Bank Award in Photography (2011) by the University of the Arts London, The United Overseas Bank Painting of the Year Award (2009) Singapore. In 2010, he was awarded The Young Artist Award by the Singapore National Arts Council. His work has also been featured prominently in Artforum International, ArtAsiaPacific, European Photography, Pipeline, Archivo, Fotografia and Punctum.

新加坡，2017 年 2 月——香格纳画廊荣幸宣布新加坡艺术家赵仁辉个展“**圣诞岛，自然而然**”将于 3 月 11 日至 5 月 8 日在新加坡吉门营房香格纳画廊空间展出。展览包含艺术家在 2016 年悉尼双年展展出的系列作品，这些作品也是首次亮相新加坡。开幕活动将在 3 月 15 日晚 6 点至 9 点于香格纳画廊空间举办，艺术家将亲临现场进行演讲和新书发布。

赵仁辉将艺术家身份隐匿在“动物学家批判学会”（ICZ）这一虚构的科学组织下，致力于发展一种“批判方法论下的动物学研究，简言之，就是人类看待动物的方式”，并努力“推动创新甚至是激进的、理解人类与动物关系的手段”。艺术家采用了多方论证法，运用科学的语言、工具、方法和仪器，以寓言家的姿态进行叙事。他的作品游走于现实和幻想之间，展示那些被忽略的矛盾、假设，以及人与自然关系中固有的紧张与冲突。他将现实与虚构、真相与诡计糅合在一起，让观众在面对这些图像、信息时有所思考，尤其在当今这个充斥了图像、“虚假新闻”的世界。如赵仁辉所说，现实有时比虚构更怪诞。

2015-2016 年期间，赵仁辉在圣诞岛上进行自然研究。这座位于印度洋中的火山岛屿，由于地理上的隔绝，造成了该地区独特的生物多样性现象。圣诞岛曾为新加坡英属海峡殖民地的一部分，现为澳大利亚的海外领地。圣诞岛最为奇特的景观是红螃蟹一年一度的从陆地到海洋的繁殖迁徙，其间，数百万“红色军团”占领岛屿，所有往来车辆都要慢行让路。磷酸盐开采业是岛上的主要产业，始于十九世纪后期，随之而来，由人类定居者带来的入侵物种日益影响到岛上脆弱的生态平衡，造成多种本土物种灭绝。缺少天敌的原生生物逐渐沦为当地生物链的低端，就连外来物种猫也对其造成威胁，因此全岛范围内对猫的捕杀也成为一项生态保护工作。

赵仁辉主要研究岛上的濒危物种，检视人类生存痕迹对自然造成的意想不到的后果。他的摄影系列呈现了圣诞岛上奇特的生物种群、自然现象和自然地标，以及他独树一帜的“伪科学”和戏谑式的记录和诠释。此外，展出的两件装置作品取材于岛上物件。《纪念圣诞岛伏翼蝙蝠》（2016），是一台太阳能超声波回声定位器，用于探测圣诞岛伏翼蝙蝠的行踪。仪器随着物种的灭绝已经丧失了原始的功能性，它的静默似在控诉一个物种的灭绝。《纪念圣诞岛上的最后一只猫》（2016），由固定的支架和一个树脂做的猫骨架组成，精致的木制结构似乎掩饰了它作为野生猫捕捉器的致命功能。

艺术家最终试图（假想）以一种一劳永逸的方式维护圣诞岛的生态系统：彻底清除所有入侵物种——包括人类，也选择离开岛屿。这些想象中的情景，通过一个虚构的生态会议计划“后人类生活——重建岛屿生态系统”，和提交的科学论文摘要展开。

展览同名限量画册《圣诞岛，自然而然》，描绘了这项想象实验在未来 50 年后的结果，包含了圣诞岛上濒危物种和物种保护工作的 120 张照片和文件。 画册将在 3 月 15 日的开幕式上正式对外发布，届时公众亦可现场购买。

关于赵仁辉

赵仁辉（b. 1983）是新加坡籍视觉艺术家，他主要以摄影进行创作，同时采用多学科方法将影像与实物并置呈现。他的作品主要探讨人类与大自然的关系、仁义与道德的课题，同时也关注人类的态度和观点如何影响我们对大自然的认知。他曾在很多地方做过展览，2016 年悉尼双年展，2015 年阿尔勒摄影节，2013 年新加坡双年展，澳大利亚当代摄影中心（墨尔本），和 2013 年法国 Photoquai。2010 年，他被授予由新加坡国家艺术理事会颁发给青年艺术家的国家最高奖项

青年艺术家奖，2011 年则赢得了由伦敦艺术大学举办的德意志银行奖。

主要个展包括：“无尽藏”，香格纳画廊，上海（2015），“苍蝇喜欢黄色”，卡蒂斯特艺术基金会，旧金山（2014）； “假象或现实”，Anzenberger 画廊，维也纳（2014）； “世界动植物漫游指南”，Primo Marella 画廊，米兰（2014）；“你看到的最后光景”，2902 画廊，新加坡（2014）;“动物学家评论学会”，Chapter 艺术中心，英国（2012）；“大地档案”，当代艺术研究所，新加坡（2011）；“白鲸之白”，福冈亚洲艺术博物馆，日本（2010）；“如果树倒下”，变电站艺术中心，新加坡（2009）。

Christmas Island, Naturally, 圣诞岛，自然而然，2016

100cmX 150cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/3+ 1A.P

Christmas Island, Naturally II,圣诞岛，自然而然 II，2016

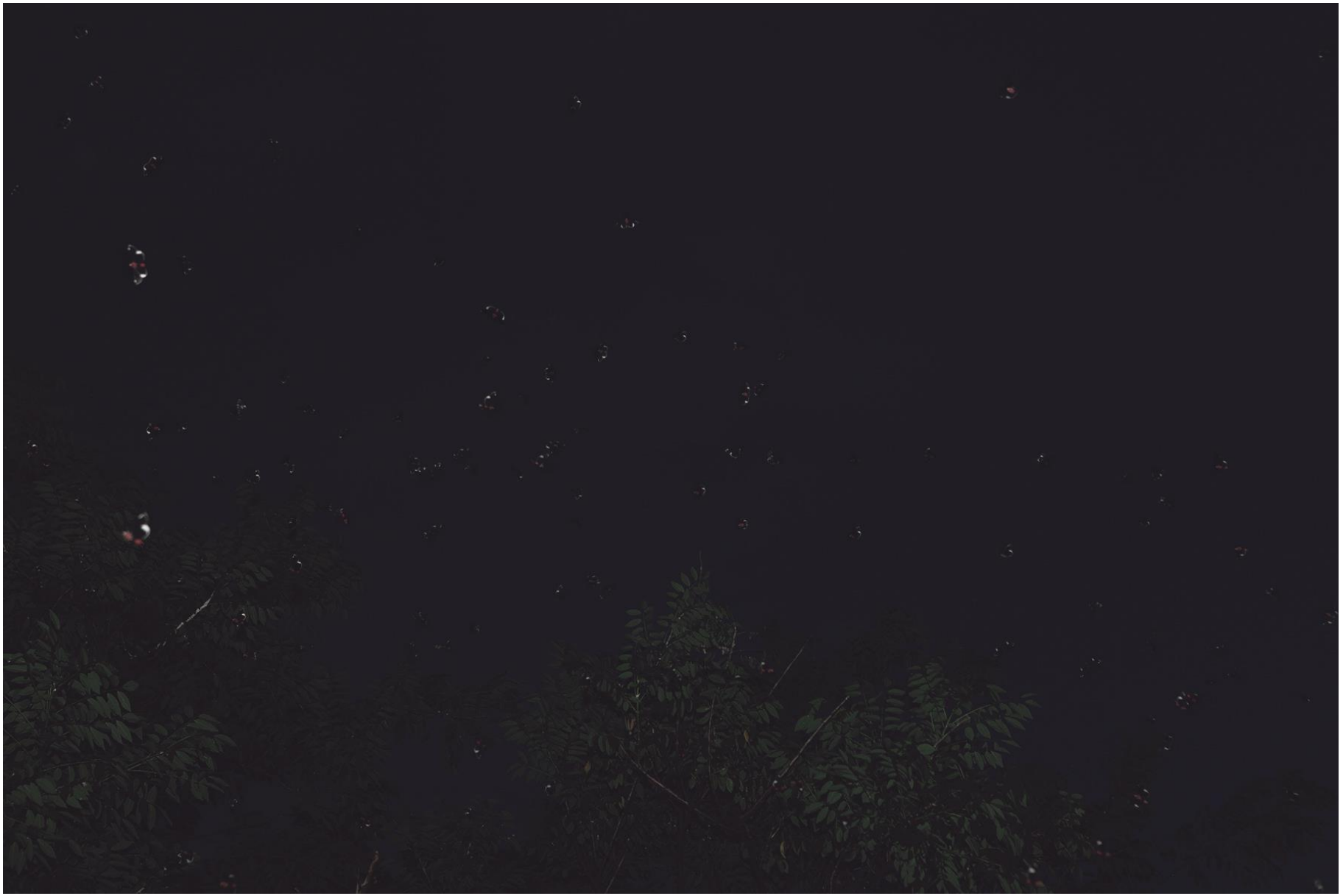
100cmX 150cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/3+ 1A.P

Insecta 昆虫类 2016

(x 5 pieces)|40*60cm|40*60cm|60*40cm|84*121cm|162*108cm

Matt Diasec in black frame, Edition 1/2+ 1A.P



Christmas Island Flying Fox 圣诞岛狐蝠, 2016
162cmX 108cm, Matt Diasec in black frame
Edition 1/3+ 1A.P

Proxy, 2016

9 pcs, each 60cmX 40cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/2+ 1A.P

The 3rd Christmas Island Conservation Plan 第 3 届圣诞岛保护计划, 2016

80cmX 120cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/5+ 1A.P

Proxy II (Beetles), 2016

80cmX 120cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/5+ 1A.P

‘Pergam’, 2016

80cmX 120cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/5+ 1A.P

Introducing the hymenopteren wasp... 膜翅目胡蜂介绍..., 2016

80cmX 120cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/5+ 1A.P

Last day on Christmas Island 圣诞岛上的最后一天, 2016

100cmX 150cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/5+ 1A.P

Christmas Island Forest Skink 圣诞岛森林蜥蜴, 2016

40cmX 60cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/5+ 1A.P

Christmas Island Dog 圣诞岛的狗, 2016

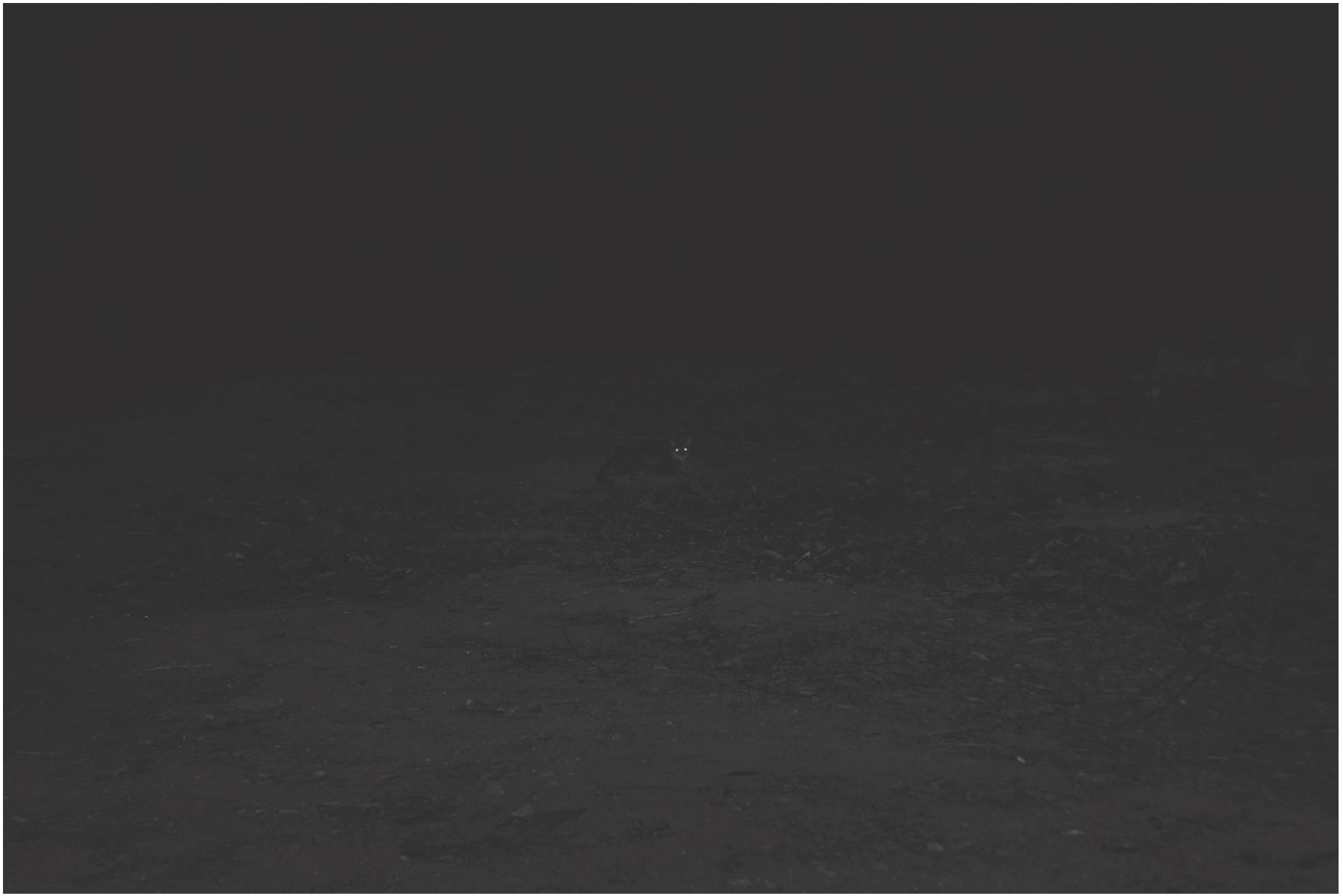
40cmX 60cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/5+ 1A.P

Last Cat On Christmas Island 圣诞岛上的最后一只猫, 2016

5 pcs, each 40cmX 60cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/5+ 1A.P



Christmas Island Pipistrelle 圣诞岛伏翼, 2016

40cmX 60cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/5+ 1A.P

Fig. 26,图 26, 2016

80cmX 120cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

Edition 1/5+ 1A.P

Memorial to the Last Christmas Island Pipistrelle 纪念圣诞岛伏翼蝙蝠, 2016

185*96cm, Installation | Bat Sonar Detector and Microphone

Unique edition

Memorial to the Last Cat on Christmas Island 纪念圣诞岛上的最后一只猫, 2016

90*80*50cm Installation | Wood, Resin

Unique edition

3rd Christmas Island Conservation Plan 第 3 届圣诞岛保护计划, 2016
Dimensions Variable, Table Installation
Unique Edition

20cmX 30cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

20cmX 30cm, Matt Diasec in black frame

3rd Christmas Island Conservation Plan Conference
Disappearing from Eden —> Day 5

Panel 1

REVERSE TRANSLOCATIONS - HOW TO BRING HUMAN COMMUNITIES OUT OF REWILDED PROTECTED AREAS
==========

> T. Satoshi, Can remote monitoring technology be used to effectively monitor biodiversity
> on Christmas Island?, ICZ Journal 174, 2015

> R.L. Selkirk, Introducing the hymenopteran wasp Tachardiaephagus somervillei to combat the
> yellow crazy ant - lessons and perspectives for invasive species management, ICZ Journal 174, 2015

Panel 2

INTEGRATED APPROACHES IN MANAGING ALL INVASIVE SPECIES IN ECOSYSTEMS
==========

> D.D. Wong, Application of a novel snake trap, Wolfburrow™ to control common wolf snake
> (Lycodon capucinus) populations on Christmas Island, ICZ Journal, 2015

> H.T. Chia, Last rat standing - a review of Christmas Island's black rat (Rattus rattus)
> successful extermination programme, ICZ Journal 178, 2016

> T. Satoshi, Feline fatale - the success of Christmas Island's cat eradication drive
> and its implication on native biodiversity. Unpublished

3rd Christmas Island Conservation Plan Conference

Life After Humans –
Rewilding Island Ecosystems
12–14 February 2015

The Conservation Institute
Sydney, Australia

This conference brings together diverse expertise from academia, conservation organisations and government agencies to discuss management and eradication of invasive species on oceanic island ecosystems from all over the AsiaPacific region. The conference also aims to provide a platform to discuss contemporary ecological theory and share experiences and best practices in rewilding and restoring ecosystems to predisturbance states, and in the absence of long-term human disturbances.

FEBRUARY 12
5pm – 8pm
Welcome tea

FEBRUARY 13
8.30am – 9.20am
Keynote Address by Director,
Ecosystems without
Humans Foundation,
Doing things naturally
– R.L. Selkirk (USA)

Session 1
9.20am – 12.10pm
An island ecosystem minus the humans
Christmas Island rewilded
– R.H Zhao (Singapore)

Eradicating invasive aliens and
restoring damaged ecosystems –
the Hawaiian experiment
– S.T Scott (USA)

Session 2
1.10pm – 4.50pm
Rarity unto death –
when is an insular species really extinct,
and when do we stop searching?
– D.D Wong (Singapore)

Making species comeback possible –
Eradication or management?
– H.S Lightoller (UK)

Welcome Dinner
5.30pm – 8.00pm

FEBRUARY 14

Session 3
8.30am – 9.20am
Robot rangers to remotely monitor
island ecosystems – technological
for remote and nonremote sensing
– Satoshi T. (Japan)

Rewilding ecosystems –
why resettling human
communities matter
– D.D. Shackleton (Australia)

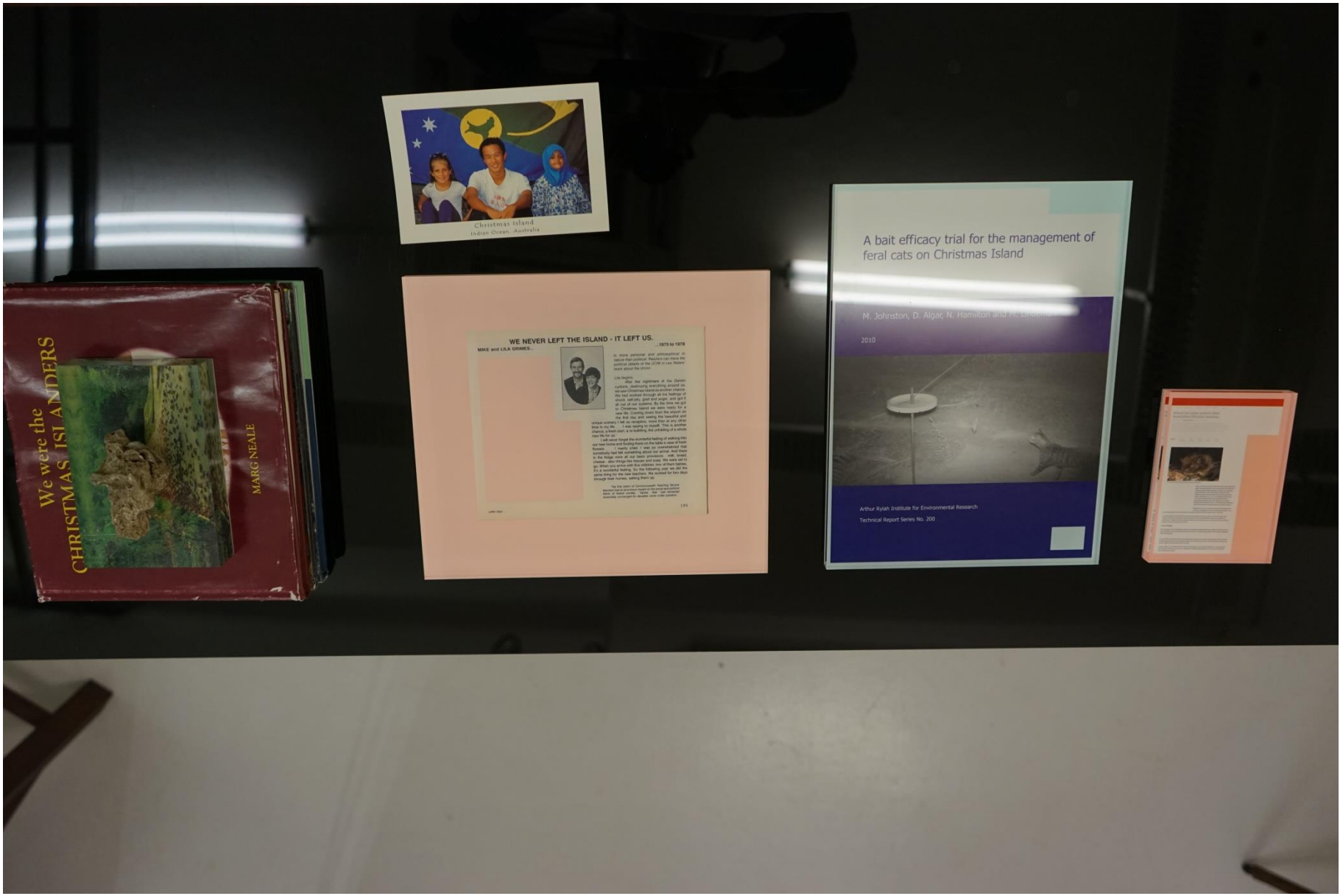
9.20am – 12.10pm
How long do we intervene in
ecological restoration before
exiting?
Panel Discussion led by
– R.H Zhao (Singapore)

1.10pm – 5pm
Excursion to Norfolk Island

6pm – 10pm
Closing address

For further details see:
www.criticalzoologists.org/conferences2015


White-tailed Tropicbird
CHRISTMAS ISLAND 聖誕島 PULAU KRISMES
INDIAN OCEAN AUSTRALIA
Christmas Island Tourism Association Inc.: www.christmas.net.au
CHRISTMAS ISLAND


Christmas Island
Indian Ocean, Australia
We were the CHRISTMAS ISLANDERS
MARG NEALE
WE NEVER LEFT THE ISLAND - IT LEFT US.
MIKE and LILA GRIMES...
1975 to 1978
A bait efficacy trial for the management of feral cats on Christmas Island
M. Johnston, D. Algar, N. Hamilton and H. Lindeman
2010
Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research
Technical Report Series No. 200

Island bat goes extinct after Australian officials hesitate

1649

Now extinct: the Christmas Island pipistrelle. Photo by: Lindy Lumsden.

Nights on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean will never again be the same. The last echolocation call of a tiny bat native to the island, the Christmas Island pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus murrayi*), was recorded on August 26th 2009, and since then there has been only silence. Perhaps even more alarming is that nothing was done to save the species. According to a new paper in Conservation Letters the bat was lost to extinction while Australian government officials equivocated and delayed action even though they were warned repeatedly that the situation was dire. The Christmas Island pipistrelle is the first mammal to be confirmed extinct in Australia in 50 years.

Weighing less than a U.S. nickel, the Christmas Island pipistrelle fed on insects and roosted in tree hollows and decaying vegetation. Just a few decades ago, the bat was widespread on Christmas Island and roosted in groups of 50 or so animals.

"It is estimated that a single pipistrelle consumes its body weight in insects per night," Tara Martin lead author with Australia's national science agency, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), told mongabay.com. "While the loss of the pipistrelle is likely to lead to more insects, it is too early to tell what the long term ecological impact of this will be on the island."

A view to extinction

Once abundant, after the mid-1980s the situation for the Christmas Island pipistrelle took a sudden turn for the worst. Its population began to drop off while the bat vanished from much of its former range. Between 1994 to 2006, the population fell by over 80 percent.

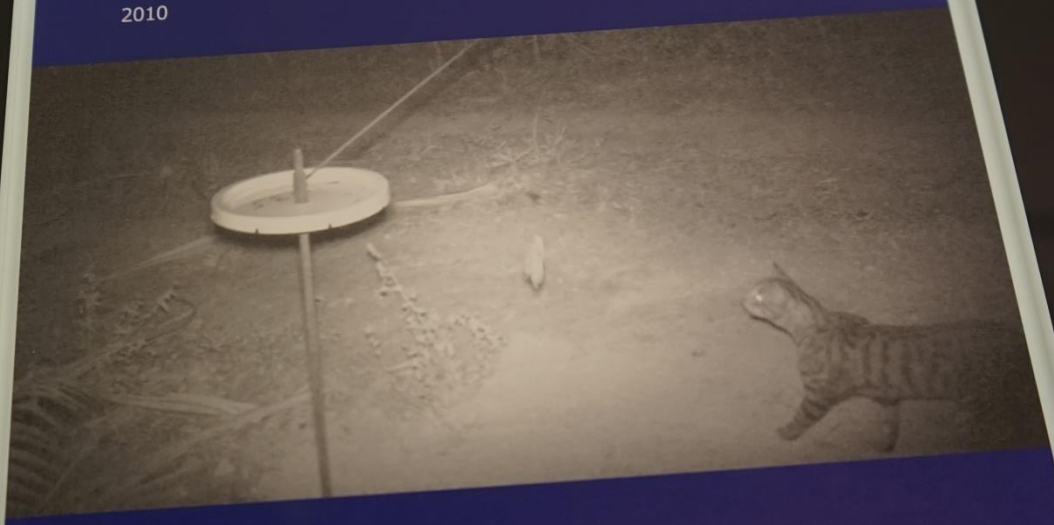
In January 2009 an expedition found only four individuals in a single roost. Bat expert, Lindy Lumsden, at the time warned the Australian government that the population could be as low as 20 bats and "if the current rate of decline continues, this species is likely to be extinct within the next 6 months."

Lumsden added, "It is critical therefore that a captive breeding program is established immediately as insurance against further decline in numbers and as a source of individuals to reestablish wild populations once the cause of decline has been identified and controlled."

A bait efficacy trial for the management of feral cats on Christmas Island

M. Johnston, D. Algar, N. Hamilton and M. Lindeman

2010



Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research

Technical Report Series No. 200

ShanghART
香 格 纳 画 廊

ShanghART West Bund 香格纳西岸
No.2555-10 Longteng Avenue, Xuhui District, Shanghai, China 200232
徐汇区龙腾大道 2555 号 10 号楼，上海，中国 200232
T: +86 21-6359 3923, +86 21-5424 9033| info@shanghartgallery.com

ShanghART Beijing 香格纳北京
261 Cao Chang Di, Old Airport Rd, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China 100015
朝阳区机场辅路草场地 261 号，北京，中国 100015
T: +86-10 6432 3202| infobj@shanghartgallery.com

ShanghART Singapore 香格纳新加坡
9 Lock Road, #02-22, Gillman Barracks, Singapore 108937
吉门营房, LOCK 路 9 号 02-22，新加坡 108937
T: +65 6734 9537| info@shanghartsingapore.com

ShanghART S-Space 香格纳 S 空间
798 Art Zone, Seven Star East Street, No.4 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China, 100015
朝阳区酒仙桥路 4 号 798 艺术区七星东街，北京，中国 100015
T: +86-10 6432 3202| infobj@shanghartgallery.com